

INSIDE: Hawaiian Writers Talk About Community Roots

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"Kids Have Pride," a two storey mural on display at South Station was the collaborative effort of 32,000 Boston area school children from public and parochial schools. The mural portrays children of many ethnic backgrounds and is actually a mosaic of thousands of ethnic pride statements on colored pieces of paper. The mural will be on display at South Station through June. Later, sections of the mural will be displayed at other locations throughout the Greater Boston area.

Asian Americans Will Lead In The 90s

The 1990s will be the decade Asian Americans set their own political agenda, said California Congressman Robert Matsui. "For too long Asians got on the political campaign of others, and then settled for a portion of that promise," he said at a press conference on the day of this year's Asian American Unity Dinner, held at the Westin Hotel on May 5. Matsui was the evening's keynote speaker.

The Democratic party should not take the support of Asians for granted, Matsui added. "The Democratic Party has to put out programs for all minorities- Latinos, Asians, African Americans. Asians are not up for grabs."

Matsui said democrats in Congress must get the deficit in control, cut defense spending, offer aid to Eastern Europe, challenge the President on foreign policy, and at home, address the needs of the

homeless.

In the 1990s, Asians will need role models of political activism who commit themselves to issues of common concern among diverse Asian groups. Thus far, media attention has focussed on the technological skills of Asians, but little has been said about the leadership qualities Asians possess. "Asians are seen again as the model minority in articles such as *Time* magazine's. No one talks about Asians as political leaders, or having political power," said Matsui.

Asian Americans are already taking on significant political issues, Matsui added. The struggle against English Only, the repeal of the Immigration Act of 1986, and a protest of a recent Smartfood ad with racist overtones has propelled Asians toward political activism.

Richard Chin's appointment as
Continued on Page 3

Hard Times for Immigrants in Massachusetts

by Catherine Anderson

With rising unemployment, a reduction of English classes and a cut-back in general relief benefits, many immigrants find a changed climate in Massachusetts.

Up until the last fiscal year, the state's booming economy and progressive training and educational services welcomed newcomers who sought a better life. Now, some are leaving the state to search for jobs in California or even New York where chances of finding employment are not much better for the worker who doesn't have skills or speaks little English.

"In the mid-80s, it was easy to place refugees in jobs. Employers would call us," said Paul DeGiacomo, a job

developer with the Chinese American Civic Association's (CACA) Refugee Education and Employment Program. Before, employers would hire limited English speakers to work in their hotels, factories or restaurants, but now businesses have either put a freeze on hiring or hire only those who can speak English perfectly. Usually, this means the American-born worker.

The future looks even grimmer for recent refugees who are single and don't have fluent English skills. In January, the state Department of Welfare announced that it will fund general relief benefits to single refugees for only 12 months instead of 18 months. As a result, many refugees who had planned on continuing

their schooling for another semester, or who were hoping to enter training programs, will now have to look for jobs in a highly competitive job market. "In the long run, they will remain an underclass," predicts DeGiacomo.

Sonith Peou, who works at the CACA's REEP program said that training programs have also become more selective. "These skills programs require students to speak good English before they enter. Someone who has only been here a few months cannot adjust that quickly, and too soon they are cut from the program." A refugee's problems are not necessarily solved by entering a training program, either, explained Peou. If they spend time training for a job, there is

no guarantee a job will be waiting for them when they graduate. In a fragile economy, they face the same set of problems: no jobs, and high competition for the few jobs available.

Peou said he had many clients who were recently cut off from general relief while they were in training programs. One student optimistically entered an electronics training program this winter but had to drop out and work full-time when his general relief was cut. Others have not been lucky enough to find jobs, and have to depend on family for support while they are looking. "This creates a traumatic situation in homes," said Peou. "We take them into this country, but we

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Maxine Hong Kingston Plays the Reader's Monkey

by Catherine Anderson

In her new book, *Tripmaster Monkey: His Fake Book*, Maxine Hong Kingston describes how the main character, Wittman Ah Sing, amorously kisses his lover's toes. The scene was written, Kingston told her audience, "to make up for the healing not given to the long tradition of Chinese foot-binding." Even though Wittman Ah Sing's lover is an American blonde, not an Asian, Kingston hopes her toe love scene will "work as a suggestion, the way melodies and chords are suggested in an ancient Chinese fake book- those songs that people can improvise from."

The spirited Kingston, who thinks of herself as having a "bit of the monkey in me," spoke to a packed hall of Radcliffe students recently about her new

novel and future creative plans. A feminist who makes use of her rich Chinese ancestry to highlight contemporary issues of gender, class and culture, Kingston has received world praise for her autobiographical works, *The Woman Warrior* and *China Men*, including recognition from the American Academy Institute of Arts and Letters. Her latest work, and first novel, *Tripmaster Monkey*, won the prestigious Pen West Award.

Tripmaster Monkey: His Fake Book has received mixed reviews, Kingston admitted. Of her complex novel, set in San Francisco during the 1960s and involving a maverick Chinese American playwright who creates a magical re-telling of the ancient Chinese monkey stories, Kingston said, "the

critics just don't get it." Feminists believe she has sold out because the book is about a man and other critics chastise her for "too many literary allusions." Yet the novel is told from a woman's viewpoint, Kingston explained, and the Chinese myth which inspires the narrator's voice is well known in Chinese literature- the figure of the goddess of mercy, Kuan Yin, who controls the unpredictable monkey by wrapping a band around his head, causing him unsettling pain. Her allusions to Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*, specifically, the lines "I sing the whole body of America from top to toe," is meant to celebrate the Chinese American body, including those sensual toes.

Continued on Page 3



Maxine Hong Kingston on the cover of her book, *Tripmaster Monkey: His Fake Book*. Photo/UPI/Bettman Newsphotos

INSIDE CHINATOWN

**Beach St.
Chinatown
Gate Will
Close**

In a move aimed at increasing public safety in the Chinatown commercial area, beginning Monday, May 21, motor vehicle access onto Beach Street at the Chinatown Gate will be restricted.

All motor vehicles, except emergency vehicles, will be restricted from turning onto Beach Street from Edinboro Street, the Surface Artery or the Central Artery exit ramp. The traffic regulation change is being made in an effort to reduce the significant conflict occurring daily between pedestrians and motorists on this increasingly congested thoroughfare. Beach Street will be closed by constructing a raised sidewalk under the Chinatown Gate using temporary beam material and complemented with reflective posts.

Restricting motor vehicle access onto Beach Street at the Chinatown Gate was determined as being a way to increase public safety for pedestrians in Chinatown, yet ensure that Beach Street businesses are not negatively impacted by the change. Other measures that are being taken to maximize the effectiveness of this action include the following:

*New loading zones will be provided on Beach Street for the use of trucks delivering to local businesses. The meters located on the north side of Beach St from the Chinatown Gate to Harrison Ave. will be replaced

with a loading zone that will be in effect Monday through Saturday from 8 am to 6 pm.

*The traffic signals at Beach Street, Edinboro Street and the Surface Artery will be modified to reflect the change in the traffic pattern.

BTD Commissioner Richard A. Dimino said, "the city has been working closely with the Chinatown/South Cove Neighborhood Council (CNC) and the Asian/American Chinatown Business Association (AACBA) to lessen congestion and improve pedestrian and automobile safety on Beach Street. Delivering basic city services to the residents and merchants of Boston's neighborhoods is, and will continue to be, our first priority."

George Joe, Executive Director of the CNC and the AACBA said, "the Chinatown Business and residential communities are pleased with these changes that should improve conditions on Beach Street."

The restriction will be in effect seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day for a sixty day trial period that will be evaluated by the Boston Transportation Department. Beach Street west of the Gate will be open to automobiles, and motorists can reach it via Tyler Street, Hudson Street, or Harrison Ave.

Residents and merchants with comments on this action are urged to submit correspondence within the sixty-day trial period to:

The Boston Transportation Department
Room 721-City Hall
Boston, Ma. 02201.

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The Sampan is the only bilingual newspaper published in New England serving the Asian community. *The Sampan* is published bi-weekly.



Second-graders at the Josiah Quincy Elementary School listen to Lori Lieberman, MPH, R.D., (left) of the Harvard Community Health Plan, explain the importance of good nutrition. Asked to compare the nutritional content of M & M's and a peanut butter cracker sandwich, the children quickly voted for the peanut butter crackers. The presentation was part of a day long Health Fair at the Quincy School. Children learned about substance abuse, coping with stress, aerobics, the homeless, and other topics. The Fair was sponsored in part by "Healthy Choices for Young Americans," a program of the Washington Apple Commission which has sponsored similar fairs across the country. In Boston, area health educators, social workers, and police workers are participating in the presentations.

Daycare Scholarships for Kids

Citing recent and impending reductions in Massachusetts child care support services, Pamela Mann, executive director of the The Horizons Fund, announced the formation of a new scholarship option for working families who are in need of assistance with child care costs. The Care Scholarship program is targeted to families living within the city limits of Boston who are trying to remain economically self-sufficient. The Fund, founded in affiliation with Bright Horizons Children's Centers, seeks to ensure that child care support and services survive and thrive in Massachusetts in the 1990s, despite the state's fiscal cutbacks.

"Proposed cuts threaten to leave even more working families in the Boston area without the means to afford child care. By providing scholarship funding to families, The Horizons Fund will offer assistance to parents who are trying to make it on their own," said Roger Brown, who serves as chairman of the Horizons

Fund Board. The Fund has modeled their Care Scholarship Program after two State programs that have proven to be successful in aiding families in

need yet the funding has been withdrawn.

The lottery will take place in July 1990. Interested families can contact the Horizons Fund at 577-8020 for more information.

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MIS DEPARTMENT OPENINGS

Challenging opportunities exist within the authority's MIS Department. Nine major systems with over 40 applications are to be developed and implemented during the next 26 months. The newly defined department needs a variety of seasoned technical professionals for its start-up operation.

Application Development and Support Manager

A seasoned application development manager sought with a minimum of 7 years experience in financial, human resources, payroll, inventory control, purchasing and contract management applications. Ability to apply an SDM to the business of the Authority is required. Experience with HP 3000/9000 minicomputers and CASE tools necessary. Demonstrated skills in project management to include user requirements definition, systems specifications, program and unit testing, turnover and production support required. Past staff supervision as well as strong interpersonal and communication skills a must.

Hewlett Packard Systems Supervisor

Supervises the maintenance and support activities of the hardware and software on the 5 HP minicomputers (3000, 9000 and a 52). Provides operations support and guidance for backups and the office systems applications. Responsible for testing and PMs along with troubleshooting. Prepares the environment for operations, provides documentation for the MIS and operations staff. Prepares and implements budgets impacting the HP systems. Tracks system utilization, usage and resource allocation. This position requires 4 to 7 years of experience with MPE-XL and extensive knowledge of MPE-V and HP Business system Plus and DESK software, along with experience in LAN and PC networking. Knowledge of MAESTRO, TAPES, OMNISPOOL and other system utilities preferred.

Database Analyst/Programmer

An individual with 6 to 8 years of experience with the design and installation of relational database scientific applications such as Laboratory Management, Plant Management and Utility Billing. Comprehensive understanding of wastewater management is necessary for successful execution of this job. Experience with ORACLE, VAX, minicomputers and 4GLS preferred. Excellent interpersonal and communication skills required.

Technical Support Analyst

A microcomputer software and hardware troubleshooter with 3 to 5 years experience is wanted to provide hands-on support to end users. Proficiency in DOS and MAC platforms, Wordperfect, Lotus 1-2-3, dBASE II +, various graphic and desktop publishing software needed. Experience with LANs desired. HP Vectra, WYSE and/or MAC certifications preferred. Strong focus on user satisfaction, service orientation and communication are part of this job.

Please send resume and salary requirements to the Human Resources Department, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, Charlestown Navy Yard, 100 First Avenue, Boston, MA 02129



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RESOURCES AUTHORITY**

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FROM PAGE ONE

Matsui *Continued from Page 1*

municipal court judge is a landmark victory for Asian Americans, and Daniel Lam's bid for state representative will pave the way for future role models of Asian American political leaders, Matsui added.

Of English Only, the movement to declare English the official language of the country, Matsui said, "The English Only movement demonstrates a lack of confidence. If one is confident, if the country is truly great, then diversity is positive. Our diverse cultures- Asian, African American, represent a mosaic. That is what is wonderful about the United States."

Matsui also reminded the audience of a Congressional effort to abolish the 1986 Employers' Sanctions which penalized employers for hiring undocumented workers. The government's General Accounting Office (GAO) has reported widespread abuse of the law. Employers are turning away workers because they don't know how to read the workers' INS documents, or because the worker has an unfamiliar name. "The GAO found that 20 percent of employers refuse to hire someone because they look different, have an Asian or Hispanic accent. In Chicago, for instance, where the immigrant population is denser, that figure jumps to 30 percent."

In the 1990s, those examples of Asian achievement will have to match strides with political equality, "Until Asians get involved in the political arena, those success stories will become meaningless," Matsui said.

The Japanese American community's fight to win an apology from the United States government for the internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II was one issue, Matsui, said, which challenged Asians to confront the political establishment. Shortly after receiving a national apology, but before redress payments had been confirmed, the Japanese American community was called upon again to question a political action made in high government. Republican Governor Deukmejian appointed Congressman Dan Lundgren, who was opposed to redress payments, to the powerful position of State Treasurer. Members of the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations knew that Lundgren's record as a member of the national commission to address Japanese internment during World War II was dismal. They opposed the appointment by mobilizing civil rights groups, environmental groups, women's groups and others to speak against Lundgren's. "Again the Asian American community took a risk, and made it known to the world that Don Lundgren did not represent the values of the public." Lundgren did not become State Treasurer.

Matsui represents the Sacramento district, is a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, and has worked on behalf of Asian minorities as Congressman for twelve years.

Congressman Matsui's remarks set the tone for a later panel on Asian American Empowerment for the 90s at the Westin Hotel before the dinner. The Asian American Unity dinner is the year's kickoff for Asian Pacific American Week, a celebration of Asian Pacific American culture and heritage. Recently, President Bush declared May "Asian Pacific American Month."

Economy *Continued from Page 1*

don't take care of them once they are here."

Generally, when the economy isn't good, employers will choose workers they can communicate with easily, said employment coordinator Richard Miller

of the International Institute. The International Institute serves Ethiopian and Vietnamese students as well as other newcomer groups with English as a Second Language programs, legal services, and employment services. Miller said his staff is placing immigrants in small business jobs such as bakeries or printing companies. Before, immigrants and refugees could find work at Marshall's department store, the garment shops, or in hotels.

Manufacturing companies, which also used to employ immigrants, are closing down, or re-locating in the suburbs. The Department of Employment and Training recently estimated that 35 plants statewide had closed down as of April, 1990.

Like other job developers, Miller said that a newcomer's lack of English is the strongest barrier, "English seems to be the key to getting a job, or any other kind of survival here. With English, a person can make out one way or the other."

Newcomers who use to rely on restaurant work for a steady income while they pursued learning English are finding that once formerly reliable businesses are not hiring.

Business owners in Chinatown lament the slow-down in business, a reflection, they say, of the whole state. One owner estimated that business has fallen by 20 percent. Many Chinatown restaurant owners were reluctant to talk about the drop in business, fearing it would bring a bad name to Chinatown, yet even in the suburbs, Chinese restaurants are suffering.

Owen Harren, a personnel director for the Jack Pollack Company which manufacturers automotive parts and has been a reliable employer for newcomers, especially Vietnamese and Cape Verdeans who live in Dorchester where the company is located, said hiring has dropped to almost zero in the last 6 months. Currently, the workforce is 25 percent Vietnamese and 65 percent Cape Verdean. After lay-offs in November, Harren said, the company was able to recall only staff in production jobs this past January.

In order to address workers' problems with English, Harren said, he and other staff members taught English as a Second Language classes last year to 65 or more immigrant workers. Harren is currently looking into curriculum for ESL in order to meet the growing need of the workers.

Immigrants moving to Chinatown from abroad discover they have to wait six to eight months before a restaurant job in Chinatown opens up.

Suzanne Lee, chairperson of the Chinese Progressive Association (CPA) which runs the Workers Center said that restaurant workers who used to find quick jobs in the suburban restaurants are realizing they may have to re-train for other positions. "We're looking into ways they can break into the trades, or other reliable forms of employment."

Trained office skills workers who have come through the Chinese American Civic Association's (CACA) program or the one sponsored by the Chinatown Occupational Training Center (COTC) are faring better. Although skills training counselor Chung Li believes that placements take longer and that one has to be much more persistent, people can find positions in Boston's stable insurance or banking businesses.

Recent graduates from CACA and COTC have found positions at the John Hancock Life Insurance Company, the State Street Bank in Quincy, the Boston Five, the Shawmut Bank, and The New England.

Immigrants have always needed good training programs in order to survive in Boston, but the economy requires that

they plan ahead now more than ever. "More immigrants are coming to this area, yet the economy has gone down, the government has cut funding, making the situation worse. We want to serve as many immigrants and refugees as possible," Li said.

Family support is key to success in Boston, said Maria Goodman, a pre-vocational counselor at CACA. One of her students, Tong Lin, who came to this country from Canton and entered the pre-vocational program last August has recently landed an entry level position at the Westin Hotel. Lin plans to support himself and his father, mother, and brother with his hotel and restaurant jobs when he enters the University of Massachusetts' Developmental Studies program. Lin is ambitious, says Goodman, but he is also realistic, "He knows how to identify his strengths and weaknesses and how to ask for help. He makes good use of resources, something we really want people to do when they come to our program."

Although he has made strides since coming to Boston, Lin said the road hasn't been easy. More than a few times he was turned down for restaurant jobs because employers told him that his English wasn't good enough, even for dishwashing. "It's very hard for new immigrants who don't speak the language," he commented. Finally, he was able to get a position at the Chef Chow Restaurant in Brookline through a relative.

Job developers are looking outside the hotel, restaurant and light manufacturing industries and finding a few positions in relatively obscure businesses, such as flag-making. The request for flags seems to have risen as Eastern European countries such as Poland and Czechoslovakia have begun to re-design not only their government, but also the fabric and cotton symbol which represents it.

The Flag Center in Cambridge is one of many flag makers in the Boston area which employs immigrant stitchers. The key to finding a job, claims Brian Broggi, the vice-president of management at the Flag Center is persistence. The small company will interview four or five people for one position, but then cannot track down the possible candidate because he or she doesn't have a phone. "I always recommend that people call us if we don't call them. And even if there isn't an opening, they should keep trying to get us. Even Americans don't know that you can call the company to ask about openings. We welcome that."

Although the company has a skeleton

crew of about six people or more, they plan to hire a few more stitchers as spring business picks up. The work is usually seasonal, lasting from May to the end of August. Broggi said they will hire stitchers with little English, as long as the person has had experience or is willing to learn industrial stitching. "We find that minimal English skills are enough, because people are able to get their message across." Broggi said that business prospects look good for the future, and they will probably hire a few more immigrants as the demand grows for flags.

Kingston

Continued from Page 1

Kingston created the character of Wittman Ah Sing, a ribald 25 year old hippie, in order to reveal the American adolescent hero through feminist eyes. "I wanted to bring this character to adulthood, to see if I could 'grow-up' a Tom Sawyer, Huck Finn, or Holden Caulfield, those adolescents of our American psyche." Kingston's hero is not only the American adolescent, but also the dearly loved Monkey King of Chinese folklore who travels to India and returns carrying the knowledge of Buddhism back to China. This monkey wreaks havoc wherever he goes yet survives by his wits and magical powers. Kingston's Wittman Ah Sing, who recites poetry on city buses, wrestles with Chinese American stereotypes, and dreams of writing a great play, embodies the peak ideals of America's Monkey age- the 1960s. "It was a time of chaos, when the established order was turned upside down," she said. The long, fast-paced novel charts how a person of those ideals can balance his own culture and times without giving up his dreams.

In her next work, Kingston hopes to include myths she had left out of her first book, *The Woman Warrior*. "As I grow as a feminist and pacifist, I get more concerned with the word 'war' in *The Woman Warrior*," she explained. The conclusion of

Continued on Page 7

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ASIAN COMMUNITY

Asian American Unity Dinner Panel: 90s Bring a Decade of Change, Activism

by Catherine Anderson

"We're re-defining the old stereotype of Asians as non-political," said May Louie, chairperson for Boston's Rainbow coalition and Jesse Jackson's special assistant at the Asian American Unity Dinner panel discussion. "Asians are organizing around workers' rights, educational rights, the fight against English Only. We're becoming politicized in the most dynamic sense. In the next decade, there will be an explosion of activism in electoral politics," Louie predicted.

Speaking with Louie at the Westin Hotel on the afternoon before the Fourth Annual Asian American Unity dinner were Davy Um Heder of the Cambodian Women's Project, Suzanne Lee, co-chair of the Chinese Progressive Association, Bin Nguyen, vice-president of the Vietnamese Community of Massachusetts, and Daniel Lam, formerly director of the Massachusetts Office of Refugees and Immigrants, and now a candidate for state representative. Fred Dow, the past director of the Asian American Resource Workshop moderated the panel on Asian American political empowerment in the 90s.

In front of an audience of over fifty people, panelists discussed not only the need for Asians to become more politically empowered, but how that kind of power can be achieved.

To begin her talk, Suzanne Lee explored the term "political empowerment" itself. "Empowerment is the key word," said



Daniel Lam and Suzanne Lee, panelists at the Asian American Unity Dinner Panel, "Asian American Empowerment in the 90s."

Lee, "it means being a full partner to shape society, and have a say in the institutions which guide it—unions, federal, state and city government." For Lee, the question is not why are people uninformed, but instead, how to get them involved. People will commit themselves to an issue, she continued, when they believe they will be heard.

Asians need to demand access to education, and jobs. For too long, Lee said, Asians were made to feel that they shouldn't be in Ivy League schools because large numbers of Asians had already entered, and in corporations, Asians hit a glass ceiling. Once achieving capability, Asian are not rewarded by the greater society they live in.

One of the most important aspects of political activism, Lee emphasized, is empowering workers. Choosing an issue that draws people together is the key to becoming politically em-

powered. While working on a bill to guarantee workers higher unemployment benefits, Lee

"Empowerment means being a full partner to shape society, and have a say in the institutions which guide it."

said, workers at the CPA's Workers Center learned that they could have an impact on the state legislature. The workers

divided themselves into small groups and spent two years learning the political strategy of authoring a bill and seeing it through the House. One day, Lee said, when workers came back from meeting with legislators at the State House, they told her, "We need to get more people involved in this. They (legislators) don't understand what's important to us." The bill received a favorable review last month and is on its way to the House and Senate Ways and Means Committee.

For Bin Nguyen, vice-president of the Vietnamese Community of Massachusetts, the idea of community itself is still evolving. "It wasn't until I came here that I heard the word 'community,'" Vietnamese immigrants come from all parts of Vietnam, and from various class and family backgrounds. The challenge for them in Massachusetts, he explained, is to work out the differences of class, religion, and political opinion in order to benefit the Vietnamese community as a whole.

Davy Um Heder, representing the Cambodian community, stated that refugees coming from a war torn country often look up to the established Asian community for leadership. "You have been here a long time, and

we can learn a great deal from you." Heder named struggles around bilingual issues and equal access to jobs and education as key issues that unite all Asians.

The difficulty for Cambodians in particular, she said, is trusting government to work for the benefit of people. "Because so many distrust the government in our own country, it is hard to work together here." The present situation in Cambodia is constantly on people's minds, she added. "People are looking to going home in the future, but they are worried now for their loved ones who are still there. We are now trying to unify with our Cambodians and support the United Nations policy." The United Nations plan for Cambodia would call for free elections.

Daniel Lam, who is running for state representative of the Sixth Norfolk District, said that his campaign will serve as a "laboratory of Asian political empowerment." If Asians want political power, Lam, said, they will have to compete in the electoral arena. "If we want to have power, we will have to work for it. We have to accept the fact that we have to do it." Lam added that when he became a citizen ten years ago, he was challenged by a clause in the naturalization oath that informs new citizens that someday they may be called upon to serve in public office. "Empowerment is entrance, a permission to enter into something. The question is not can we, or are we willing to run, but that by running for office you are paying the price of living here."

Neighbor to Neighbor, a nation wide organization promoting legislative action to end U.S. aid to El Salvador asks you to boycott Folger's coffee, the number one selling coffee in the U.S. made primarily from Salvadoran coffee beans. Coffee is El Salvador's leading export, 60 percent of which comes to the U.S. After direct U.S. aid, coffee revenues are the primary source of funds for the war because the Salvadoran government collects a 46 percent excise tax.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Boston Regional Office, Region 1
Boston Federal Building, 3rd Floor
10 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02222-1092



INVITATION FOR APPLICATIONS FOR

Section 202 Elderly Handicapped Housing Fund Reservation



The Department of Housing and Urban Development will accept applications from nonprofit organizations for rental or cooperative housing under the Section 202 Direct Loan Program for Housing for the Elderly Handicapped subject to the following:

Units	Loan Authority
Metropolitan Area	311 \$19,323,000
Non-Metropolitan Area	91 \$5,071,000

This represents the funding available for Region I, but there will be a per application limit of 125 units (including manager's unit) in both the metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas. Additionally, each metropolitan area application must propose at least 50 units.

Appropriate filing information is contained in an Application Package which may be obtained from Jeanne McHallam, Director, Housing Development Division, U.S. Dept. of HUD, 10 Causeway St., Boston, MA 02222-1092.

This office will conduct a workshop on May 14, 1990 in the auditorium of the O'Neill Federal Building, 10 Causeway Street, Boston MA at 9:30 a.m. for interested applicants to explain the Section 202 program, to distribute Application Packages and to discuss application procedures.

Application must be received by 5:00 p.m. June 13, 1990. If mailed, applications must be received in the field office no later than the foregoing deadline. Applications received after the time and date specified will not be accepted.

Sewerage/Maintenance Deer Island, Winthrop

Operations Manager

Individual needed to work full time managing the operation of the Deer Island Wastewater Treatment facility to ensure efficient, cost effective operation and compliance with NPDES permit requirements. Responsibilities will include all aspects of design, budget, staff training and maintenance associated with the Boston Harbor project. Qualified candidate will possess a BS with 8-10 years related experience, 7-9 of which are in a management capacity. Mass. Class III license and Mass. Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator's license Grade 6 are required.

Maintenance Manager

This challenging position will manage maintenance and warehousing services for all departments by establishing and monitoring an approved preventative and corrective maintenance system for all equipment at Deer Island. Individual will be responsible for all aspects of planning, budgeting and upgrading of outside and inside maintenance. Responsibilities will include supervision of a staff of 100 maintenance employees. This position requires a BS with 7-9 years related experience, 3-5 years in a supervisory capacity. Valid Massachusetts Class III license required.

Machinist

This technical individual will fabricate and repair through the use of machine tools; pumps, turbines, generators, valves and other related equipment. This skilled employee will have considerable knowledge of the methods tools, practices, materials and techniques used in fabrication and repair of equipment used in the ironmaking trade. Ability to interpret and execute diagrams a must. 5 years experience as a machinist is required.

Please send resume and salary requirements to the Human Resources Department, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, Charlestown Navy Yard, 100 First Avenue, Boston, MA 02129



MASSACHUSETTS WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY

An Equal Opportunity/Alternative Action Employer

The next issue of Sampan will be published on June 1, 1990.

Press releases and advertisements which require translation, typesetting or artwork are accepted up to Fri., May 25 at 5 p.m.

Camera-ready advertisements are accepted up to Mon., May 28 at 5 p.m.

PROFILE

Landscape and Community Connect Writers



Gary Pak and Wing Tek Lum.

by Catherine Anderson

"Here on the mainland, we're Asian American," commented-fiction writer Gary Pak from Hawaii, "but at home I call myself a 'local.'" For both Pak and poet Wing Tek Lum, the term "local" explains more than geography. As writers connected to a rich tradition of storytelling, identifying as "local" keeps alive what both know as an authentic Hawaiian-culture, one focussed on the ecology of the islands, the folklore of the people, and the generations of family who have lived in Hawaii. Unlike the term Asian American, which often connotes a late-comer minority status, the term "local" more clearly identifies those Asians whose grandparents came to Hawaii as cane-cutters, laborers, or merchants and who comprise the majority of the population. As Lum succinctly explains, "We write about themes of belonging in a community of Hawaiians."

The writers came from their home island of Oahu as part of the Asian American Resource Workshop's Asian Pacific American Week of cultural activities. On the Tuesday of that week they read at the Harry

Dow Memorial Room in Tent City at Copley Place, Boston. Lum's collection of poems, *Exounding the Doubtful Points*, won the Before Columbus Award for 1987. Gary Pak has published numerous short stories and has written a novel and novella. He is currently working on a creative thesis for his master's degree at the University of Honolulu.

Both writers publish often in *Bamboo Ridge*, a beautifully produced alternative Hawaiian journal. Editors Eric Chock and Darrell Lum have created a publication that for ten years has fostered some of the state's most unique voices, writers mainland readers would not often see because their work may be considered too difficult or regional by editors. The publication appears quarterly, either as an anthology of short stories and poems, or as the single collection of a poet, novelist, or playwright. *Bamboo Ridge* is a community institution as well: Lum is the press's treasurer and Pak has donated volunteer time over the years. Both participate in the decade old writer's workshop.

For both Lum and Pak, writing carries the significance

of social responsibility. The art is a two-way process: they take the stories and myths from the culture, while at the same time, give it back by creating totally new versions. Their roles as writers in their community, and their support of *Bamboo Ridge* keep literature alive and vital.

Returning the gift to the community is nothing more than the Hawaiian way, says Pak, "as a kid, whenever I went picking limu (seaweed) with my uncle, he taught me how to only pick here and there, not to take everything, but leave enough behind for next time." To just take enough for yourself and your family and nothing more is connected to the Hawaiian sense of ecology, claims Pak, "my uncle taught me never to pick down to the roots, but to leave enough behind so that limu can grow back." The feeling is one of connection to a land that provides for and nourishes people who in turn, nurture it.

In Hawaii, explains Lum, the family can be a paradigm for the community. "Family, the island, and culture are interrelated," he says. Perspectives are influenced by the proximity of grandparents, aunts, and brothers. "Our sense of time is vertical. We have our connectins with our grandparents who live near us, and also our cousins, uncles. We have the oral tradition- their stories passed down to us." Instead of a history dropped behind as the descendant moves across time, the Hawaiian is constantly receiving influences from ancestors living near by. "I go to the same fishseller my father went to in Chinatown. On the mainland, mobility creates a different sense of time, and therefore a different literature."

The island state of Hawaii supports one of the most diverse populations in the United States. The majority are Asian, either Filipino, Japanese, Korean, or Chinese. Like much of North America, the islands were over-

taken by Caucasians who exploited the people living there and the islands' natural resources. By the middle of the nineteenth century, whites had created sugar fiefdoms all over the islands, importing cane-cutters from China, Japan, and other Asian countries. By the end of the nineteenth century, Hawaii's matriarchal ruler was overthrown and Hawaii was annexed to the United States.

The culture which grew out of the lives of cane-cutters struggling to exist in their new home of Hawaii is one which remains alive today in many forms. As Pak describes his family's intermarriages, "Eating with my family is a real Hawaiian experience- we might have sushi here, lau lau here, and some kim chee, too." Another hearty survivor of that mixed culture is pidgin English, a combination of Hawaiian and Asian languages along with the trade English originating with cane-cutters who needed to communicate in a common language.

In describing Hawaii's blend, and the mix of cultures and races which identifies most of the rest of the United States, Lum contrasts the American mainland term "melting pot" with one he believes more accurately names it, "the Chinese hot pot." As Lum explains through a poem under the same title, a Chinese hot pot consists of separate morsels of meat and vegetables cooked together in the same broth, "like a stew that really isn't/as each one chooses what he wishes to eat/only that the pot and fire are shared/along with the good company . . ."

Although Hawaiians are united in the physical sharing of a small, isolated space, their spirit can't be described as collective, Pak says, but more like the Hawaiian term, "Ohana," which means a family that includes not only brothers and sisters, but also uncles, cousins, friends and neighbors,

"Tats, you wen dump some rotten fish around here or what?" she said. Sugimura shook his head. He wasn't the talking type, even with his wife. "Then whas that stink smell?"

He thought of telling her about the fish scales and bones, then he thought that perhaps a bunch of stray cats had had a feast in that corner of his field. The fish were probably tilapia or catfish the cats had caught in the nearby stream. But he was tired from working all day under the hot sun and in the stifling humid air and he didn't have the energy to describe to his wife what he had seen. The fish scales and fish bones were unimportant, and he shrugged his thin, wiry shoulders and said nothing.

But something bad was in the soil. When Tats and the other sweet potato farmers began harvesting their produce a few days later, they found abnormally small sweet potatoes, some having the peculiar shape of a penis.

"How dah hell we goin' sell dis kine produce?" complained Earl Fritzhugh, a part-Hawaiian sweet potato farmer. "Dey goin' laugh at us. So small. And look at dis one. Look like one prick!"

"Somet'ing strange goin' on in dis valley," said Darryl Mineda, another farmer. "Get dah story goin' around dat old Jacob doin' all dis to get back."

"Get back at who?" Fritzhugh asked irritably.

"At us."

From Gary Pak's "The Valley of the Dead Air," a short story published in the Spring 1987 edition of *Bamboo Ridge*. Subscriptions to *Bamboo Ridge* are \$12 a year. Write: *Bamboo Ridge Press*, P.O. Box 61781, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96822-8781.

anyone rooted in the Hawaiian spirit.

As harmonious as Hawaii may appear in comparison with the rest of the United States, Pak and Lum quickly point out that all is not idyllic in their state. Lum calls the cohabitation among the various Asian groups a "grudging tolerance." Necessity has created a culture which knows that cooperation is more practical than competition.

Often the friendliness of the Aloha state has been turned against them, the writers add. "In Honolulu, near the capital is a statue of King Kamehameha. In the right hand he beckons with an open arm, a kind welcome," explains Pak, "but in his left hand is a spear to demonstrate strength. For too long we have been open and welcoming. For too long our culture has been ripped off, along with our integrity." The spear is now the symbol of community of activism, Pak adds. The activism of the 1970s may have reached its peak, he says, but now people are aware that Hawaii cannot be freely exploited without public outcry.

Lum's poetry touches on themes related to his Chinese roots- family, traditions, food, and identity. Through sensual imagery and almost a storyteller's narrative, the poet conjures place and time with remarkable clarity. In a poem which takes place on Kahuna Beach during Chinese New Year's the poet wonders if his distant relatives in China are viewing the same moon, a kind of gentle watch over families gathered to celebrate New Year's. In a realization both emotional and factual, the poet confesses that he was mistaken- on the other side of the world in China, it's daylight and no one can see the moon. The poet's awareness reveals the pangs of distance, both cultural and geographical.

Pak's stories are written in the voices of so many of his many influences- his uncles the Hawaiian people he knows, his boyhood friends. He makes use of pidgin and Hawaiian names for things, moods, places and expressions and blends them into strong, vibrant prose.

Unfortunately, these writers have not had much luck marketing their work on the mainland. "I was told once not to write in pidgin," said Pak. The editor claimed that pidgin English would be too difficult for readers on the mainland. However, the writers do not feel discouraged by this judgment. "Our heroes are really more complicated, more fascinating and challenging than anything popular culture can offer," says Pak. Lum approaches his work in the same way, "I've stopped apologizing for being local," he says, "I used to say that the universal is contained in the particular, but now I'm saying that the particular is the particular. That's enough."

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IN FOCUS

Children's Museum Bridges Ethnic Diversity



(Left to right) Luis, Candace, and Thao share some of their experiences through interactive videos at the Children's Museum's KIDS BRIDGE exhibit.
Photo/Max Belcher

by Shawna Lo

In a few years, ethnic minorities will make up a majority of Boston's population. Learning to live with ethnic diversity is an issue that cannot be ignored any longer.

Boston is a city with strict ethnic boundaries. Sadly, such a layout only worsens ethnic and racial tensions which already exist. The lack of meaningful interaction among members of different ethnic groups allows stereotyping and mis-concepts to flourish.

To fight a long history of racism and prejudice, we need to

begin teaching people--especially children--new values of tolerance, appreciation and respect for others. This effort can happen on both personal and institutional levels.

The Children's Museum has made a commitment to striving to bring about such change. About three years ago, the Museum began a Multicultural Education Project which consists of a program to train teachers in the practice of multicultural education and the development of a multicultural curriculum for the classroom.

The Children's Museum also

has devoted much energy into creating their new exhibit, The Kids Bridge, which opened about three weeks ago. The hope is that The Kids Bridge will encourage kids to enjoy and appreciate cultures which are different from their own and will provide a safe and stimulating environment which children, parents, and teachers may address the tough issues of racism and prejudice.

The exhibit is thus far made accessible to five non-English speaking groups by brochures printed in Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Khmer. After crossing a 46-foot long bridge, which symbolizes bridging the distances that separate people, the exhibit is divided loosely into three sections.

The first section of the exhibit emphasizes self-discovery and self-respect since "only then can you start to appreciate the experience of others," believes Fabian Chiu, coordinator of the Multicultural Education Program. Visitors can draw self-portraits and answer such questions as: Where does my family come from? What languages do I speak? What things do I like about myself? Other activities help children to recognize the similarities between themselves and others, regardless of differences in culture or race.

The second portion of The Kids Bridge encourages children to become more familiar with their surroundings, and to investigate other areas and cultures. Many of these activities have a cross-cultural, international flavor to them, but the ultimate message is that this incredible richness can be found right here in Boston. Visitors can see the interactive videos of treasure hunts guided by

children from various communities. We can go to Revere to search for a Cambodian treat called a Rambutan, or to South Boston to look for a claddagh ring.

There are neighborhood windows to peek in to see families celebrating special occasions, and music booths where we can play songs and lullabies from various cultural traditions, or listen to pop songs with inspiring messages by such artists as Janet Jackson, Queen Latifah and Bob Marley.

Visitors can try their hand at speaking words and phrases from some of the most commonly spoken languages around Boston. Through interactive videos, kids will teach words in Khmer, Spanish, Haitian Creole, Cantonese, and English, on your request.

The third section of the exhibit focuses on ways to deal with racism, and what kids can do to support their friends. With interactive videos, kids tell stories about experiences they have had with discrimination. The viewer can think about ways to respond to these situations. The goal here is to show that racism is painful and that each one of us can do something to fight it.

In this room, also, there is an area to sit and read children's stories, a video of talk shows for adults and several resource notebooks for people interested in finding out more.

One of the concerns I had before going to see The Kids Bridge was how the exhibit would treat racism. By attempting to break down harmful stereotypes, would the exhibit, instead, reinforce them? What the designers have done to avoid stereotyping and easy categorization is to take a personal approach. This way, a per-

son is represented as an individual with his or her own identity instead of as a member of a particular group. This approach, while not challenging prejudices that already exist, is successful in that it encourages healthier and more positive conceptions of people from other backgrounds that children may not have contact with.

Fabiana Chiu explained that the changing and growing nature of the Kids Bridge will reflect a changing Boston community. The exhibit will be made accessible to more non-English speaking groups as their populations increase, and a sign displaying all the languages known to be spoken in Boston will be updated as necessary.

The Kids Bridge has something for people of all ages as well as ethnicities, although this exhibit seems especially important for white Americans. The Museum operates on the principle that while racism and prejudice are not easy issues with simple answers, it is better to talk about them than keep silent.

(Shawna Lo is a contributing writer for Sampan)

Also at the Children's Museum

300 Congress St.
Boston, Ma. 02210
617-426-6500

May 19: "A Palette of People"
The 1990 FUNraiser Celebrate Boston's multicultural communities at the Children's Museum's 4th annual benefit. This gala will take place under a tent facing Boston's spectacular citylights and skyline. For information, call 426-6500, X-316.
May 21 "Just for Parents in Multiracial Families." Seminar is presented in collaboration with the Multiracial Family Network of Culture Sharing, Inc. \$10, \$9 for members.

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Computer Operator I - User Support

Monitors and supports computer processing with the main focus on the need of the interactive users. Coordinates utilization of input and output, and report distribution. Schedules utilization of resources for interactive users and production processing. Requires intensive contact with users for scheduling system activities such as STORES and RESTORES. Two to four years of experience with Hewlett-Packard minicomputers required. Familiarity with scheduling, MPE-XL, MPE-V, BSP, HP MAIL and DESK along with third party packages such as MAESTRO, OMNISPOOL, INFONET, and TAPES. Exposure to a large local area network helpful.

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ASIAN ARTS

April 7-June 24: Imperial Taste: Chinese Ceramics from the Percival David Foundation
The exhibit will be on view in the Carter and C. Brown Galleries at the Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave.

May 2-May 31: Chinese Painting Exhibition by Wai-Lin Lee at Cary Memorial Library, 1874 Massachusetts Ave.

May 4-25: A Memorial to a Page in History, a one-woman show at City Hall by Yim Wong. Part of the exhibit will move to Southeastern Massachusetts Gallery on May 11 through May 18.

May 19: Cambodian Dance by the Lowell Angkor Dance Troupe At the Boston Public Library on the Dartmouth Street steps of the Central Library in Copley Square. From noon until 1 pm. The Angkor Dance Troupe is directed by Sameth Chea and performs Cambodian folk dance for Cambodian Americans now resettled throughout New England. The troupe consists of 13 male and female dances and six musicians. The program is free.

Do you want to be included in the Asian American Artists Association Directory? If so, call Elaine Yoneoka at 617-232-7758.

May 28-June 9: Art show to commemorate the Tiananmen Square Massacre at the Chinese Merchant's Association, 20 Hudson St. For details on the exhibit, or if you would like to exhibit your work on the Tiananmen theme, call Yim Wong at 617-232-3753 as soon as possible. All ages and types of art media are welcome.

June 3: Imagining the Exotic Other: Arnold Genthe Photographs of San Francisco's Old Chinatown Lecture by Mr. John Kuo Wei Tchen at the Old Edgell Library, on Oak Street at Edgell Road in Framingham, Ma. The lecture is part of the Photographic Historical Society of New England's meeting. At 1:30 pm. The public invited, free of charge, to experience rare, enduring photographs as well as a narrative history that counters deeply-rooted myths and stereotypes of early Chinese life in America.

"New Voices, New Words," a minority fiction contest sponsored by Joy Street Books/Little, Brown and Company. Writers from ethnic minority backgrounds who have never published a children's book are encouraged to submit manuscripts in the following categories: picture book, middle-grade and young adult. Winner will receive a \$5,000 cash award and contract for publication with Joy Street Books/Little Brown and Company. Deadline is Sept. 1, 1990. Call 227-0730 for more details and rules for submission.

Kingston

Continued from Page 3 the Chen Luan-feng story, which she originally left out, would put peace back into the theme. In Kingston's story, Chen Luan-feng inspires a heroine who takes her father's armour in his place, fights the Manchu soldiers, and then becomes a general. In the original story, when Chen Luan-feng successfully returns from battle, she takes off her armour, puts on a beautiful dress and places wood orchids in her hair. "I omitted that because I was a

sixties feminist who didn't want my character in high heels and make-up." In her next book, she'll include the ending when Chen Luan-feng reveals herself as a woman so that men won't take credit for winning the battle. "They'll see that she can return to women's values, that a person can come back to war and not be brutalized by the experience."

Kingston regrets not adding that Chen Luan-feng was a weaver, like so many other figures of mythological history: Athena, in western tales, or the spider goddess, Anansi, in African tales. "The root of the word 'textile,' connected to weaving, making cloth, is the same as what I care about- the text."

How myths extend beyond the time they were created in is one of Kingston's purposes in writing, she said. "Every age has a new telling of its myths and I want to keep the tales alive, not frozen." As a child she was a storyteller, spinning tales about people around her, adding to the stories she was told. Her feeling for the spoken story is much stronger when she speaks Chinese, while the English language encourages a written text.

For Asian American writers, the challenge is to tell a story as accurately and as close to psychic reality as possible, without compromise, Kingston said. The task is monumental because there are so few models. "Minority writers, and women

have to work harder. There are things peculiar to our lives, and we have to write them without repeating the stereotypes. We have to invent Asian American themes, and each person who does goes off into uncharted territory." Kingston said she appreciates comments her mother made about her books, which she read in a Chinese translation. "My mother thought I was able to capture Chinese American life 'exactly,' in her words, and I took that as a great compliment."

The unique form of her works

encourages the beginning of commentary, a dialog volley between writer and reader. In *China Men* she invites her father to add or correct any of the four stories of his arrival to Gum San (America). When *China Men* was published in Chinese, Kingston explained, the text included wide margins, ample space for her father to record his responses to the story, which he did. For Kingston, this trading of myths, memories and tales is the essence of Chinese (and Jewish, she includes) literary culture, and a form she hopes to cultivate as she writes her next major work.

The Sampan

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ASIAN CALENDAR

Mar. 1-July 31: Childcare Training Program for Refugee and Immigrant Women offered by ONE to ONE at an Allston-Brighton site. Call Harriet Goldstein or Susan Doody at 254-1691. 426-6500 for details.

May 19: Botanical Tour at the Arnold Arboretum Dr. Hu Shiu Ying, member of the National Association of Chinese Americans and a Harvard associate, will conduct a botanical tour. If weather permits, she will describe the flora of Asian and Europe as well as domestic varieties which populate the acreage. Everyone meets at the Centre Street Gate; you may bring lunch. For more information, call 332-8340.

May 20: The Ford Hall Forum 1990 Evelyn and Louis P. Smith First Amendment Award At Blackman Auditorium at Northeastern

University, 360 Huntington Ave. Fang Lizhi, a Chinese astrophysicist currently in refuge in the United States Embassy in Beijing will receive the award. The program will feature Fang Ke, Fang Lizhi's son, Orville Schell and Sidney Jones. Program begins at 7 pm. For more information, call 437-5800.

May 21: Teenage Fugitive A spellbinding drama about a teenage fugitive who stumbles into a family. At the Rabb Lecture Hall of the Central Library in Copley Square (Boston Public Library). 6:30 pm. Free.

May 23: Golden Age Banquet at the China Pearl Restaurant, 9 Tyler St., starting at 6 pm for a social hour. Dinner at 7 pm.

June 3: From All Walks of Life Walk to Benefit AIDS Action Join thousands of friends and neighbors across the city walking to support research, care and development for people with AIDS and HIV. Call the Walk line for more information: 266-6906.

June 3: Dragon Boat Festival This year's festival will be held at the Charles River Park on Soldier's Field Road, along the Charles River across from WBZ and the Ground Round. This free event will have martial arts demonstrations, Chinese singing and dance, Chinese arts and crafts and the eventful competition of the dragon boat races, as community teams vie for prizes as they row boats decorated with dragon heads up and down the Charles River.

The Dragon Boat Festival commemorates the death of a famous Chinese poet and

patriot, Chu Yuan of the Chou Dynasty. For centuries, boats in China decorated as dragons have raced on the Double Fifth, the fifth day of the fifth moon, to hone Chu Yuan's spirit. Dragons in traditional China were thought to control rain, so it was important to cajole dragons on the Double Fifth to produce rain for a good harvest. For more information, call William Poon at 508-970-3941 or 617-566-4149.

June 3-8: Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Head Start On June 3, Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) will kick-off the birthday with a dinner and dance cruise aboard the "New Spirit of Boston"; on June 5, there will be an Open House at all Headstart Centers and also at ABCD; on June 6 there will be a Headstart Parade; children's artwork will be displayed and there will be festivities at the State House and at City Hall on June 8. Call 357-6000, x 245 for more information.

June 9: How to Organize Citizenship and Voter Registration At the Jesuit Urban Center, 761 Harrison Ave, Boston. From 1 pm to 3 pm. For details, call the MIRA office at 357-6000, X-228.

June 16: A Taste of Asia Come enjoy fine cuisine from China, Japan, Korea, Vietnam and Thailand at the J.F.K. Library and Museum, Boston. Ethnic performances, dance music by the Gray Sargent Trio. Benefit for the Chinese American Civic Association. \$40 tickets. From 6 pm to 10 pm. For more information, call: 426-9492.

June 19: English Plus General Meeting At the Dow Memorial room at Tent City in Copley Place, Boston. From 6 pm to 8 pm. Free ESL classes at the Korean Methodist Church on College Ave., No. 68 in Davis Square, Somerville. For more information, contact Rev. Schroeader at 629-2322.

Free Citizenship Classes: If you have been a legal permanent resident for five years, or if you have been married to an American citizen for three years, then you may be eligible for United States citizenship. The International Institute of Boston offers free classes to help you prepare for the exam. Call Victoria Frothingham at 617-536-1081. One with One also offers citizenship programs as well. Call Harriet Goldstein at 254-1691 for more information. These programs are joint efforts of the Massachusetts Office of Refugees and Immigrants and the Commonwealth Literacy Campaign.

Free Citizenship Class: Sundays at 12:45 pm at the Chinese Baptist Church, 65 Washington St., Quincy, Ma. For more information, call Mrs. Lee at 863-2253.

Multilingual HELP-Line provides telephone information and addresses questions regarding AIDS, immigration and citizenship. Call (508) 688-HELP for assistance in Spanish, Vietnamese, Khmer, Arabic, Hindi, Tamil, French, Malayalam, Thai, Gujarathi, and Laotian. Sponsored by the International Institute of Greater Lawrence.

The Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants offers free civics exam study materials to immigrants from Asia in the federal amnesty program. The 100 question guide can be used as a preparation aid for the English test given to qualify for citizenship. The questions relate to United States history and politics. An applicant must answer six out of ten questions as well as read and write a sentence in English in order to pass the citizenship test. To order these study materials, call or write Anne Noonan, Office for Refugees and Immigrants, 2 Boylston St., Ma. Call: (617) 727-7888.

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訪《打開心扉》作者 談中國的教育 與社會

加迪納

薛輝



近來，在許多書店的櫥窗裏，可以看到一本哈佛大學教育學院教授加迪納 (Howard Gardner) 的新作《打開心扉》(To Open Mind)。

這書在讀心中、美兩國教育的讀者當中引起許多不同反應。為了解作者本人在該書出版前後的一些想法，本報記者特別向加迪納作了一個專訪。以下是採訪的內容：

★問：《打開心扉》是一本有關中國教育的著作，尤其談及中國的藝術教育和培養學生的創造性。現在請你向波士頓的華人讀者介紹一些與本書有關的情況與想法。

◆答：自從我那書出版後，最令我覺得有意思的事是我收到一些美籍華人的來信，我並不認識他們，他們是聽說有這本書，而去購來一讀。不少來信中均提到我所著的書在讀心中、美兩國教育的讀者當中引起許多不同反應。為了解作者本人在該書出版前後的一些想法，本報記者特別向加迪納作了一個專訪。以下是採訪的內容：

判這些不同，不過我也未曾預料會收到華裔的來信，他們告訴我作為第一、二代移民，從此書中了解到一些使之不安的根源。就此而論，我這作者也感到很大的慰藉。

◆問：您是否記得他們來信中舉的例子，是什麼事情使他們常常不安？

◆答：學校教育。他們或他們的父母在中國上過學，或許他們並不喜歡所上的學校，但對學校的態度却十分清楚的，像師生關係、教材教具的運用、學生個人的選擇，諸如此類等。美國學校所實行的一套截然不同，注重個人發展，沒有一統的教案，學生背景和價值觀念也差別較大。在中國，雖然有不盡相同之處，人們總還有較廣泛的共同經歷和認識。美國文化紛繁雜亂，一屋裏廿五個人，其中就有一個會是中國人，而其他大多數人很可能對中國聞所未聞。現今美國都市裏更是向多極化發展，與中國都市裏的對比也愈加強烈。這倒像中國的少數民族處境，某些地區有少數民族，但漢族人衆勢強，少數民族顯不出來。大多數人或許很少見到少數民族，除了電視上或逢年過節才表現一下。這是其中一封信裏提到的事而使我聯想起來的。

二

★問：您自己是否研究過波士頓或美國其它地區有衆多華人子弟的學校呢？

◆答：這得去華埠，本地的華埠或是像紐約和三藩市有大華埠的地方，我並無這方面的經歷。我倒知道許多中國家庭感到這裏的學校系統不鼓勵中國語言和文化的教育。因此把孩子送到校外活動站或週末活動班，以使孩子多受些中國文化薰陶。你知道波士頓的昆士學校有很多中國孩子。

◆問：對。那學校在華盛頓街一個國家裏能有一萬六千個教學行政區，每個區又自設課程，有自立學校領導機構，因為，在中國之間的差異大概不會小於任何兩個國家之間的差別。其實，觀察了中國教育與美國教育的多種不同之處後，我倒是逐漸對美國的教育有了更深刻的認識。我的確不知道是否在其他歷史階段的中國教育系統會與美國有較相似之處。畢竟，共產黨的中國雖偶然放鬆，但始終是一個控制很嚴的集權社會。若去台灣或香港，那裏依然是中國文化，但感受却是兩樣。

至於實際教育系統方面，中美兩國之間的差異大概不會小於任何兩個國家之間的差別。其實，觀察了中國教育與美國教育的多種不同之處後，我倒是逐漸對美國的教育有了更深刻的認識。我的確不知道是否在其他歷史階段的中國教育系統會與美國有較相似之處。畢竟，共產黨的中國雖偶然放鬆，但始終是一個控制很嚴的集權社會。若去台灣或香港，那裏依然是中國文化，但感受却是兩樣。

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◆問：我記得您在書中提議建立一種以個體學生為中心的學校模式，這種學校一方面培養學生的基本技能；另一方面提供鼓勵學生創造性的學習環境。我覺得這點道理，我會與北京的一個高級官員，相處甚久，十分熟悉。一次長時間訪問將結束時，他告訴我：「我從你身上學到了些東西。」這話的確不易聽到。他說：「我學到你與你的同事相處的方式。」他指畫我是代表團的領隊，我總是讓大家講話，自己不左右形勢。他覺得這種領導方式很重要，我以為他的評論是出於

後半部份比較中美國文化，對比鮮明。我想知道就教育和為學生增強創造性而論，你覺得中美國文化中有什麼相似之處嗎？好像在書中您比較強調對比差別，是吧？

◆答：那是我的感覺。由於兩種文化各持不同信念。在上任何其他地方，因為，美國人是不以史例為依據而建構了一個新社會體系的。出於幾乎全然相反的因素，所以這兩個國家大概會有更多各自顯得與衆不同之處。我以為例外論是個緣由。這是就中國，漫長的歷史使其為然；在美國，則要引用歷史學家的例外論。例外論是說美國不同於世界

種文化有其獨特的歷史，都對自己的國家引以自豪，因之使差別更多於共同之處。對何為正確方法，兩種文化各持不同信念。在中國，漫長的歷史使其為然；在美國，則要引用歷史學家的例外論。例外論是說美國不同於世界

你對中國好奇和神往。

◆答：沒有什麼特別的往事，由於對大多數美國人來說，中國很神秘。我們有「神祕的東方」這個說法。共產黨開始掌權時，我才上學。中國顯得很遙遠，忽

然在七十年代，國門打開，人們可以去看一看。我先是去旅遊，沒有專門的目的，所見所聞使我很有感覺，聯想到不少自己個人的經歷和性格。這和美國沒什麼聯繫，主要是與自己的背景，出身

及重視教育、喜好藝術、尊重老人、保持傳統等價值觀有關。生長在美國，小時候即傳習到這類

價值觀念。隨着自己不斷地美國化，有些東西反倒消失了。

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SAM PAN

Vol. XVIII, No. 14

May 18, 1991

* Congressmen Push More Asian-American Actions
* Immigrant Face Hard Times in Massachusetts
* Hawaiian Writers Discuss Their Community Work

See these stories and more in the English section



國會議員松井（右）在威斯汀酒店與記者會談，左為本屆亞美聯合餐會籌辦主席康森。

—宋明怡攝—

國會議員松井口口口

鼓勵亞裔積極參政
爭取平等反對歧視



中華公所主席黃炳鏐遠赴台
灣全球僑務會議歸來後，即於五
月十四日召開大會，繼續商討公
所各項有待解決的問題。

黃炳鏐表示，據會計小姐個

前主席司徒彥銳慎重道歉

來自加州國會議員松井口口口

一ト應邀出席本年度第四屆亞美
聯合餐會，為餐會作主題演說，
談一九九〇之亞裔美國人展望。

松井於五月五日早上十時舉行記
者會，討論亞美人士在美國土地
上建立政治地位至為重要。

松井指出亞美人士在過去五年
來有出眾的表現，被譽為模範
少數民族，美國新聞界各大報章
雜誌包括時代週刊、新聞週刊、
紐約時報和洛杉磯時報，均曾以
封面專題報導探討亞美民族的優
秀成就，而這些成績大部份屬於
科學技術性的榮譽，亞美人士在
政治行政的領導才能上，却無人
談論。事實上，亞裔在美國以處
理人際事務，作為出色管理人才
而著名的情況不多。因此一九九
〇年代應是我們檢討探究這個問
題的時代，投入政治應為未來十
年大家共同努力的重要方向。

在說明亞裔增強政治力量的
作用時，他舉例說，亞美人士其
中一個成功事例是去年合力爭取
到補償法案的通過。一九四二年
因日本發動對美侵略戰爭，美國
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當作犯人般囚禁，當時全美有十
二萬的日裔美國人因相同情形被
自己的國家視為敵人，這完全是
違反人權的。但多年以來，這段
不愉快的歷史不再被人提起。松
井指出，這事件讓大眾注意，及
取得國家的道歉賠償意義重大。

他又透露，在加州政壇上若
干重要席位已由亞裔人士擔任時
，及因現時的州長又不能充份代
表加州居民的聲音，亞美人士已
決定向加州州長一職挑戰，即使
沒有勝算把握，但重要的是讓全
世界知道，亞裔居民對其州內的

年來有出眾的表現，被譽為模範
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重建局郭尤主張選取試驗性發展商

發展南火車站
—宋明怡—

波士頓重建局主任郭尤在五
月八日臨時召開的華埠南灣社區
議會會議中，就南火車站計劃選
取發展商事件上作表示，重建局
打算先選取一個試驗性發展商，
以半年為期，若不能有所行動和
造福社區，則更換另一個發展商

。他認為若只選擇一個試驗性發
展商，予以六個月的挑戰性方針
，先發展南站旁的巴士站，然後
兩個發展商的計劃沒有太大不同
，並認為目前不適合指定一個長
期的發展商。

郭尤在會議中作長篇演說，
指出麻州經濟現時陷於極大的困
境中，並歸因於政治領導層的不
力，以至麻州在一年多以前位列
全國第三名收入最高的州，於今
年却背負十年來最龐大的經濟赤
字，聯邦及州政府財政預算的緊
縮，資本家分別虧損、搬離或靜
觀其變，地方上的健康、教育、
房屋、和社會福利均全面衰退，
這使大家不得不正視目前要發展
十八個月以前討論的房屋計劃，
所必然遇到的困難。

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